MARVEL

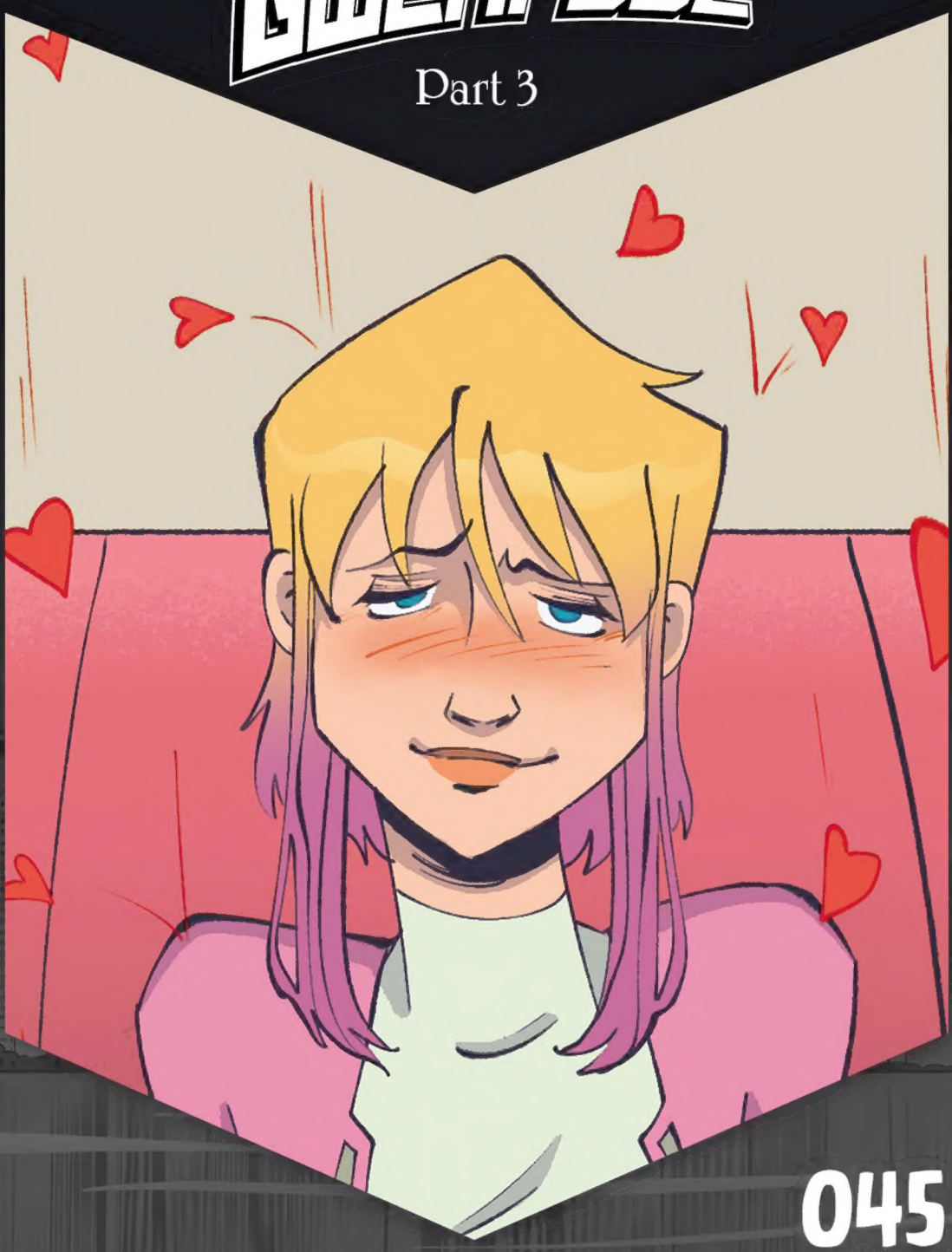
EXCLUSIVE

INFINITY COMICS

Love Unlimited

GWENPOOL

Part 3



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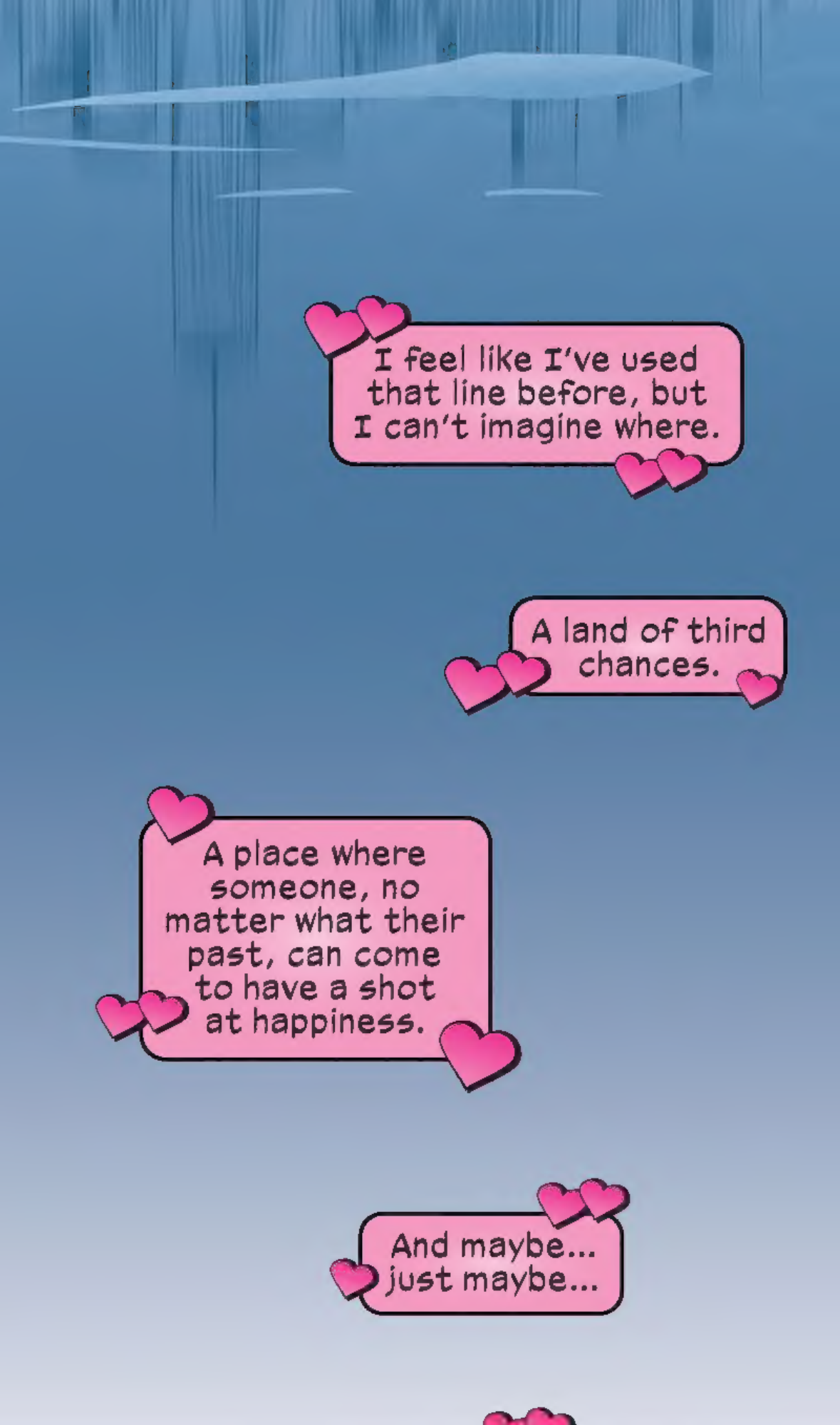
Love Unlimited #45

GWENPOOL

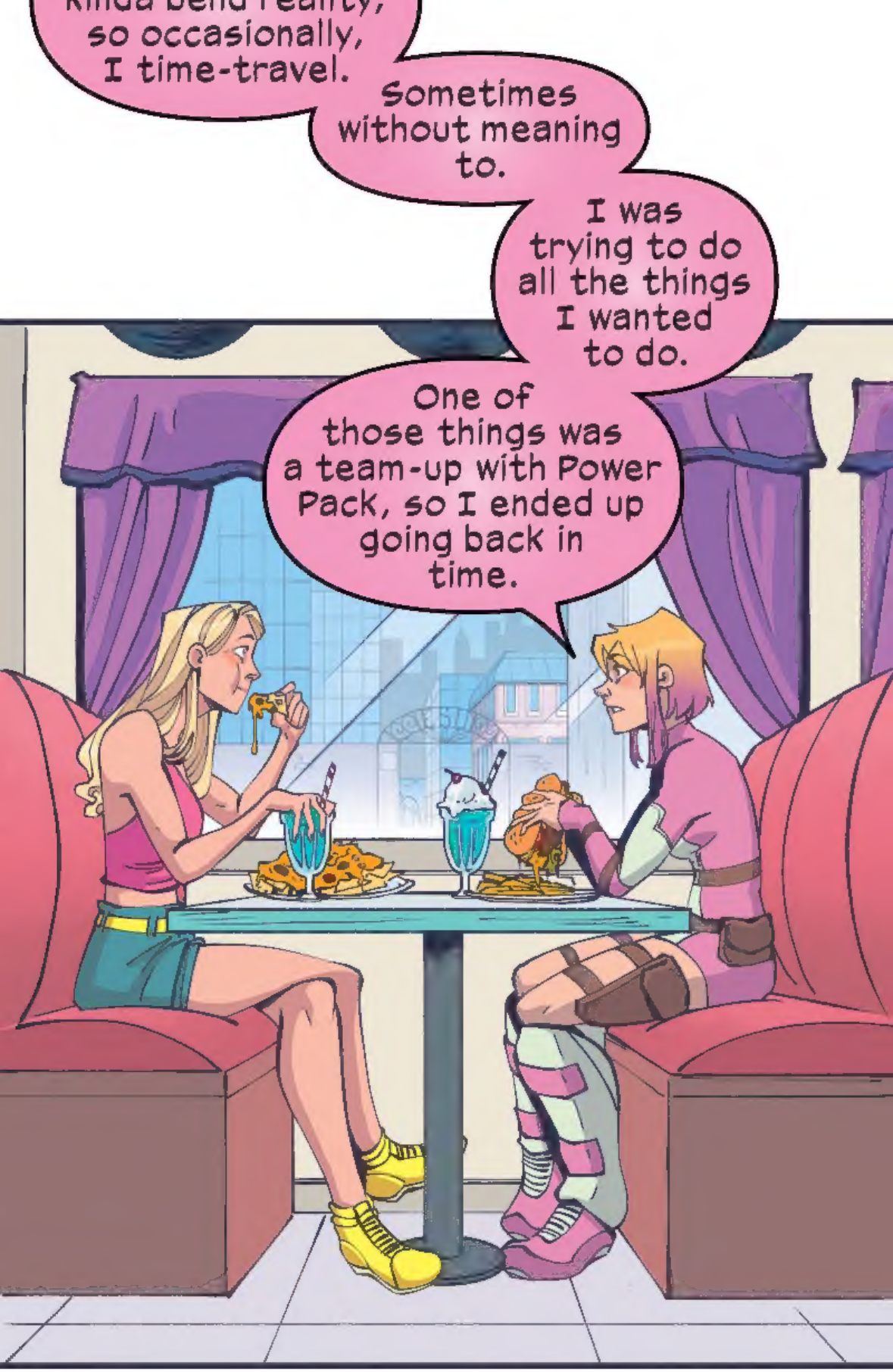
Part 3

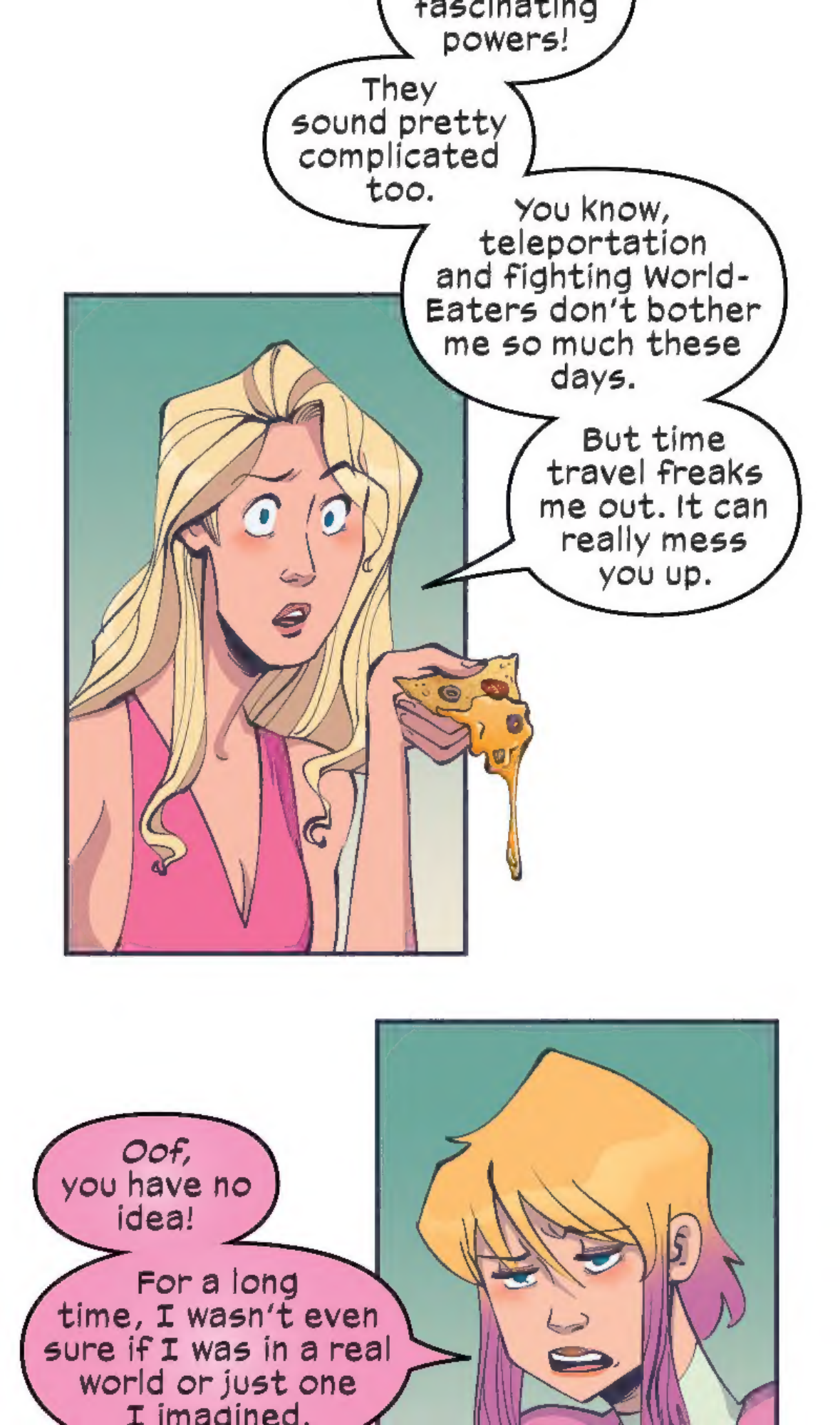
New York, the most beautiful place in the world.

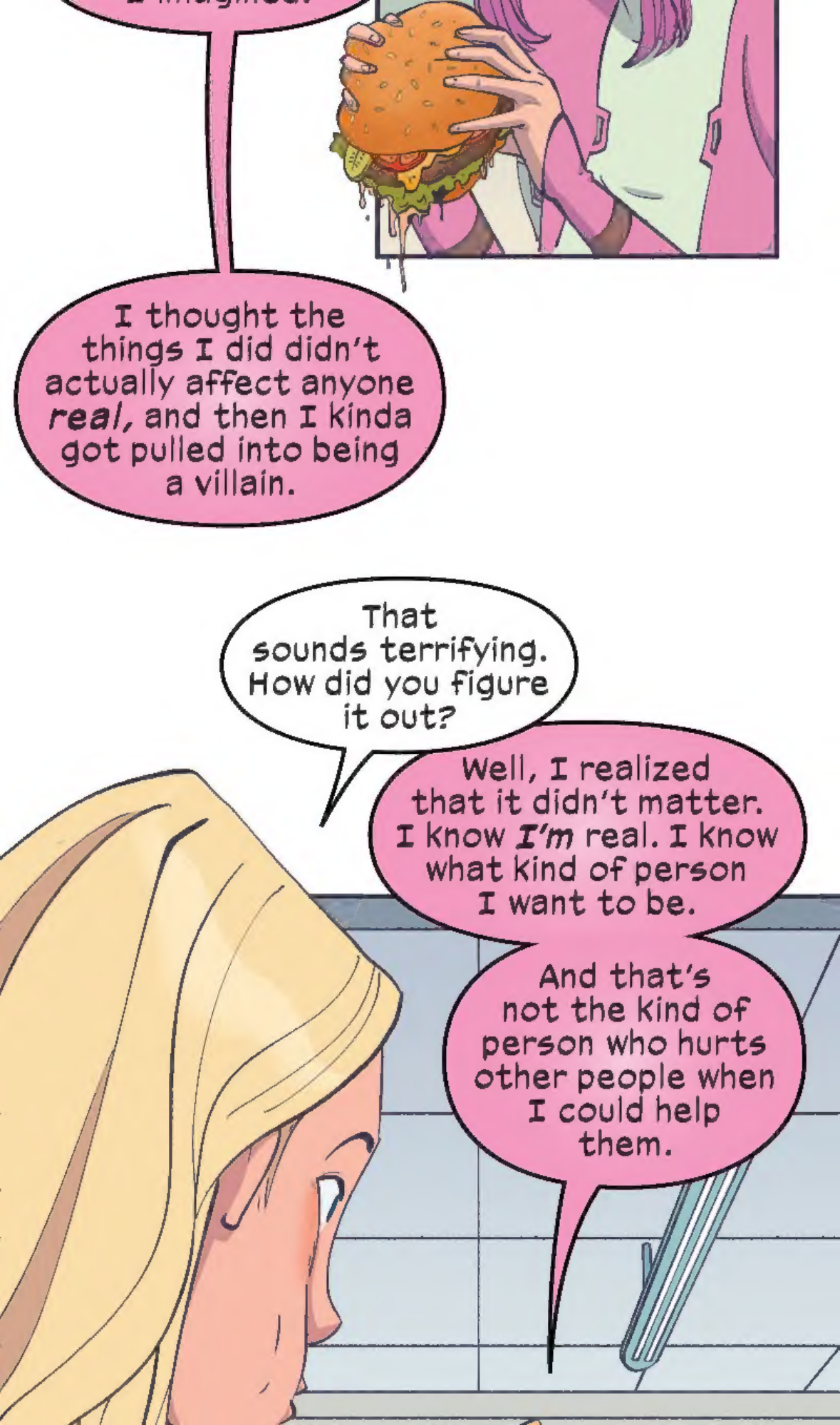
A place where the freaks and outcasts of the world can come to be themselves.


I feel like I've used that line before, but I can't imagine where.
A land of third chances.
A place where someone, no matter what their past, can come to have a shot at happiness.
And maybe... just maybe...

...LOVE.
Oh my gosh! I knew I recognized you, Gwen!
We fought together when I was just a kid.*
How have you not aged a day?!
DINER
DINER
24 HOUR DINER
*In UNBELIEVABLE GWENPOOL #25! --Alanna
Well, Julie Power, my powers

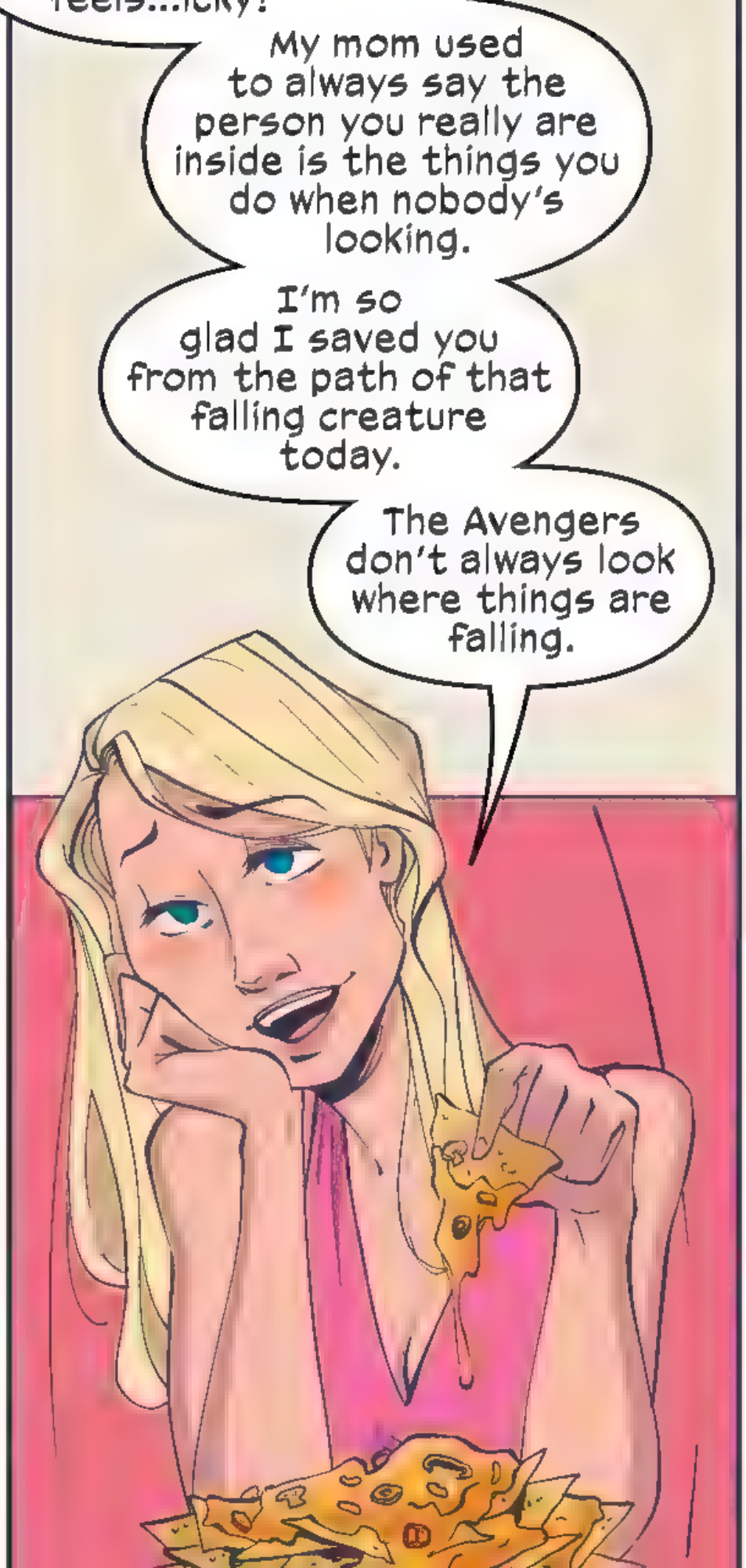

kinda bend reality, so occasionally, I time-travel.
Sometimes without meaning to.
I was trying to do all the things I wanted to do.
One of those things was a team-up with Power Pack, so I ended up going back in time.
Wow, those are pretty

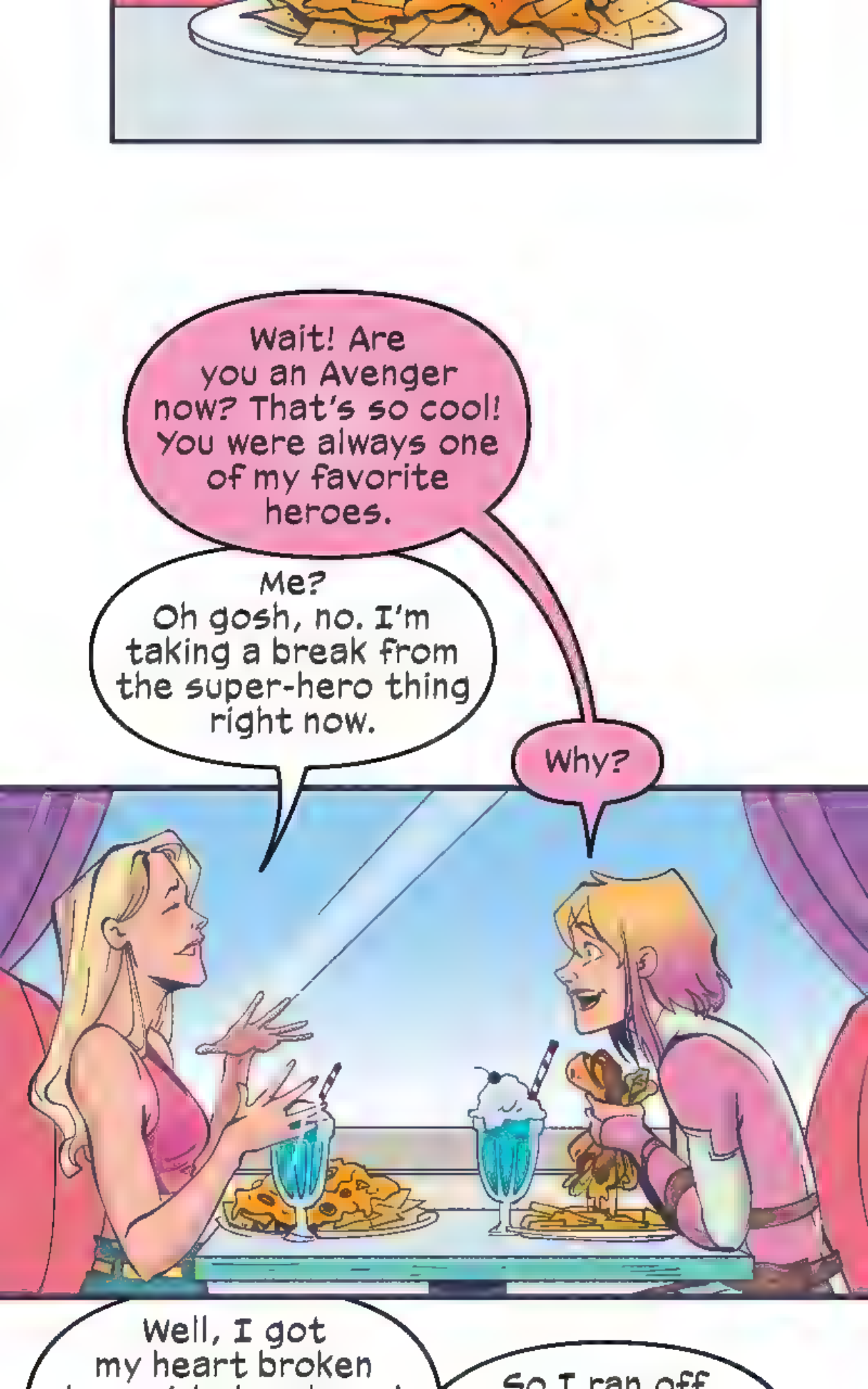

fascinating powers!
They sound pretty complicated too.
You know, teleportation and fighting World-Eaters don't bother me so much these days.
But time travel freaks me out. It can really mess you up.
Oof, you have no idea!
For a long time, I wasn't even sure if I was in a real world or just one I imagined.


I thought the things I did didn't actually affect anyone *real*, and then I kinda got pulled into being a villain.
That sounds terrifying. How did you figure it out?
Well, I realized that it didn't matter. I know *I'm* real. I know what kind of person I want to be.
And that's not the kind of person who hurts other people when I could help them.

Even if, at the end of the day, this is all a weird dream and I end up back in my bed in *my* world...
...I'd still be the person who made the choices I made, you know?

Does any of that make sense? I feel like I'm rambling.
Actually... that's really profound, Gwendolyn Poole.
You know, I can't even bring myself to make bad-guy choices in video games. It just


feels...lucky?
My mom used to always say the person you really are inside is the things you do when nobody's looking.
I'm so glad I saved you from the path of that falling creature today.
The Avengers don't always look where things are falling.

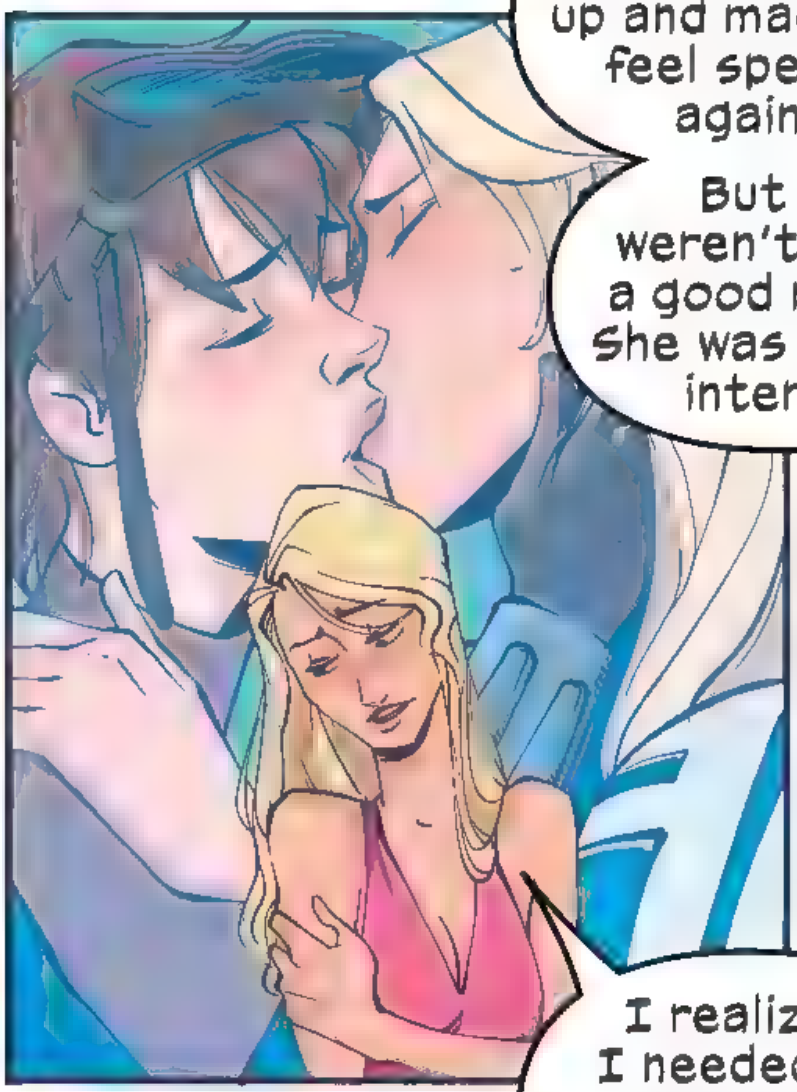

Wait! Are you an Avenger now? That's so cool! You were always one of my favorite heroes.
Me? Oh gosh, no. I'm taking a break from the super-hero thing right now.
Why?
Well, I got my heart broken

by a girl who glowed like starlight and it really crushed me.

to space with my brother and met a girl who was a Super-Soldier who had lived and died a few dozen times.

She picked me back up and made me feel special again.

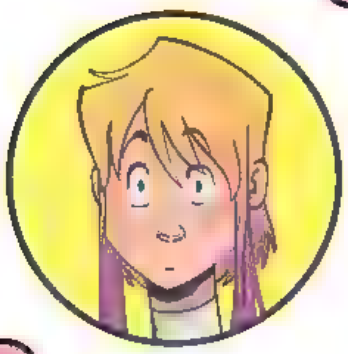
But we weren't really a good match. She was kinda... intense.



I realized I needed to come back here and finish college.

"I was just going to class when I saw that creature.
"Honestly, I mostly jumped in because I saw you and thought, 'I can't let that cute pink-haired girl get crushed!'"

Oh my gosh, this is it!



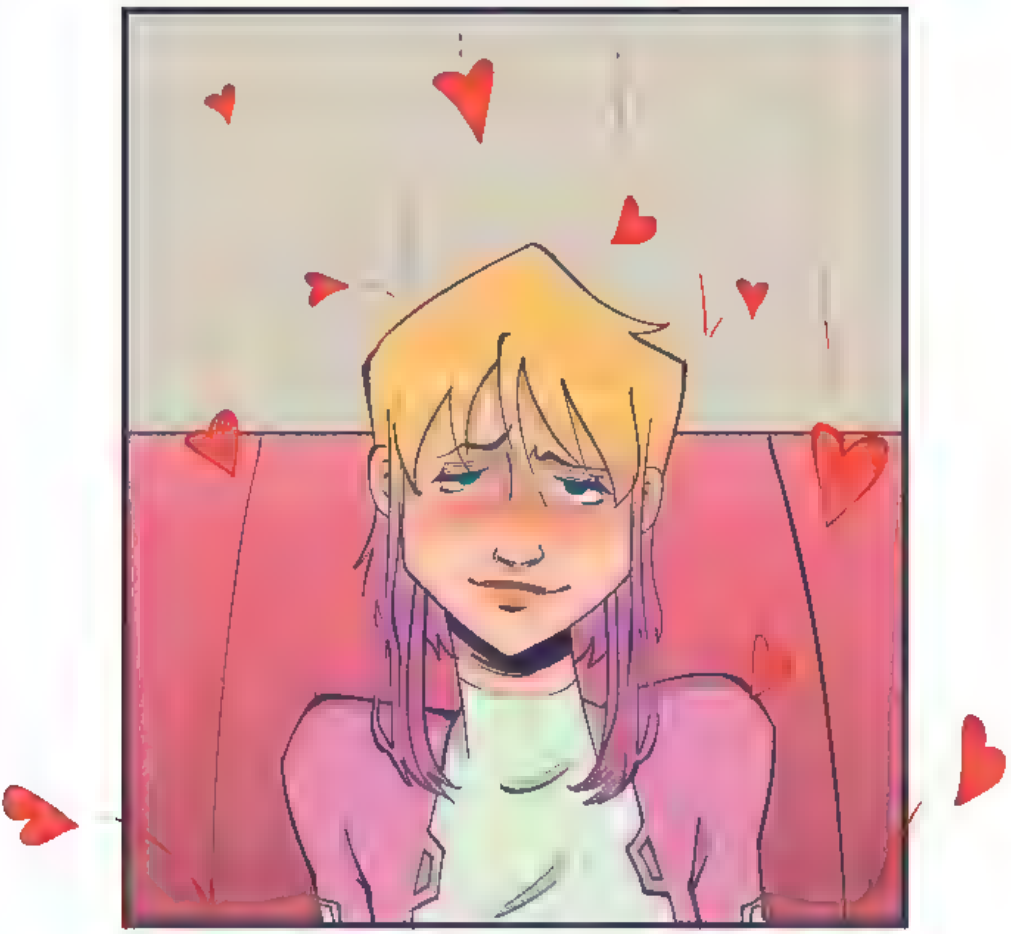
This is what I was missing!

Because of all the stuff back home, I dropped out of high school and never made it to college.

That's when my life just stopped.

I always kinda thought I might be bi, but I never went out.

I never met people.



I *barely* left the house.

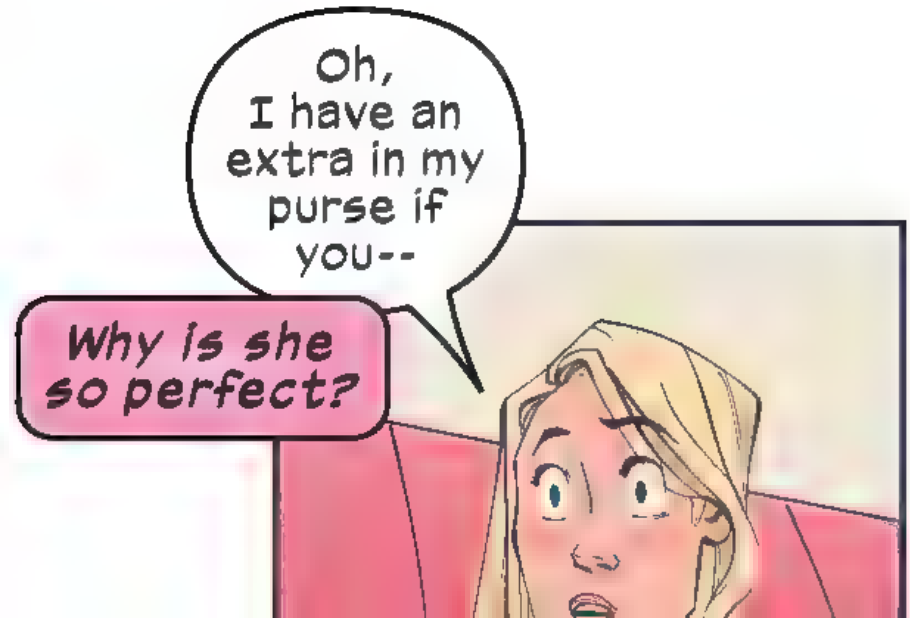
I never met a girl who liked *me.*

Now Julie Power, the gosh darn character I wanted to *be* when I read POWER PACK, is here hitting on me!

But how am I supposed to tell her I'm a dropout?

The only job I've held for more than a week was working for M.O.D.O.K.!

That's not gonna impress this beautiful, smart, continuity-heavy--
Oof! Wow, sorry!
Just...uh... urgent--
Don't say poop!
--period stuff!
NO!


Oh, I have an extra in my purse if you--
Why is she so perfect?

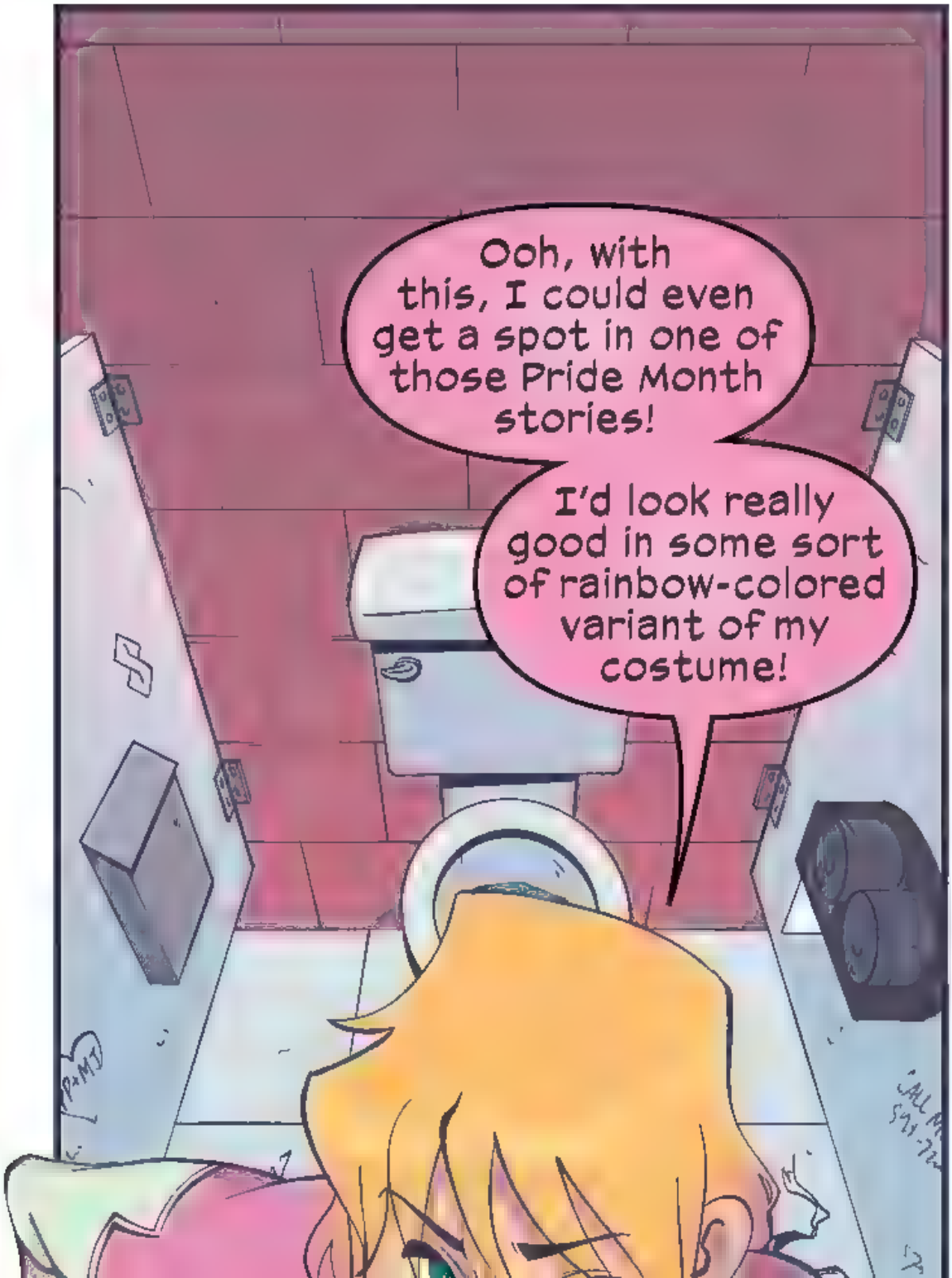
Nope!
That's what all these pouches are for!

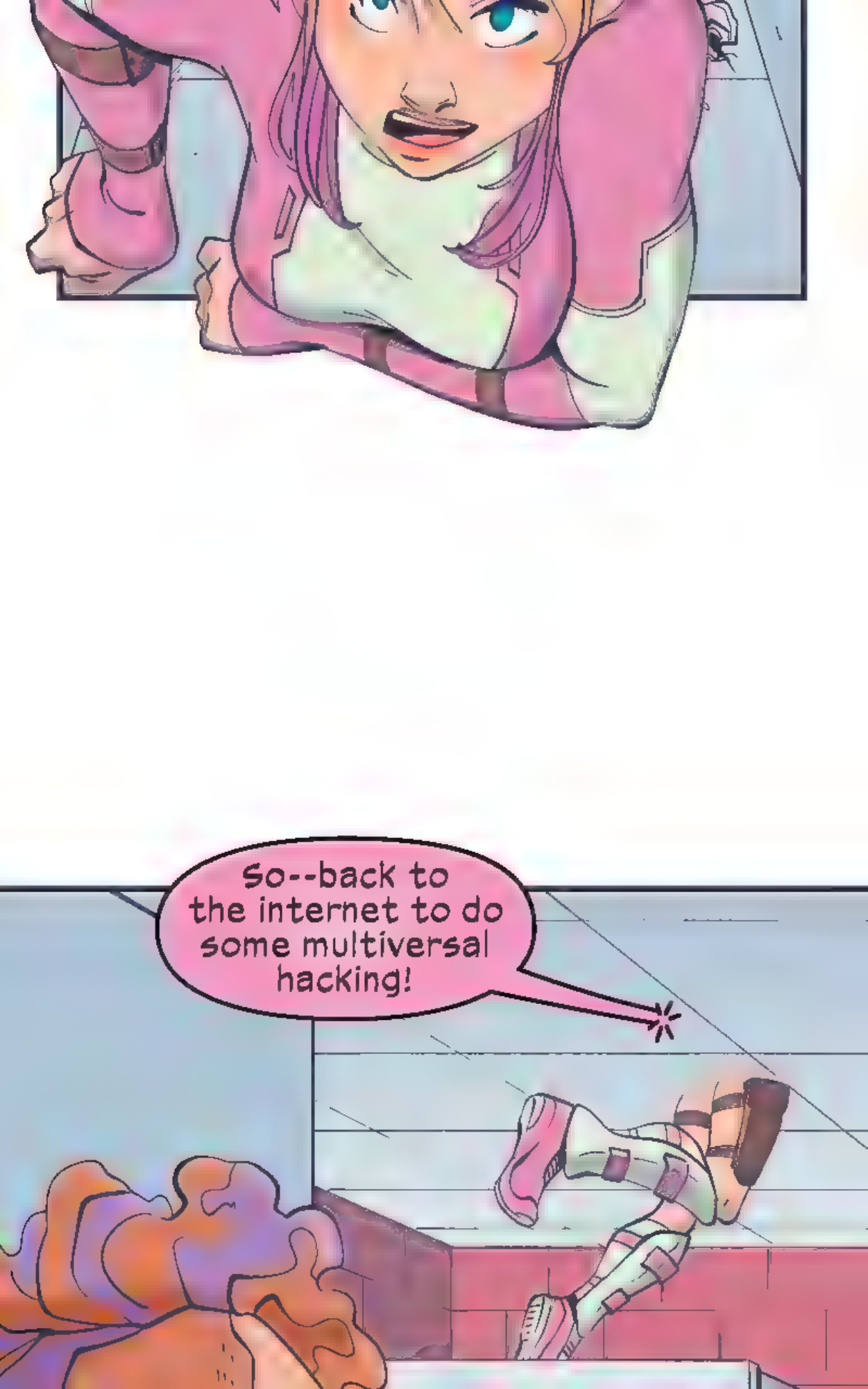
Okay, I know I decided that I wasn't going to go back and retcon things anymore.

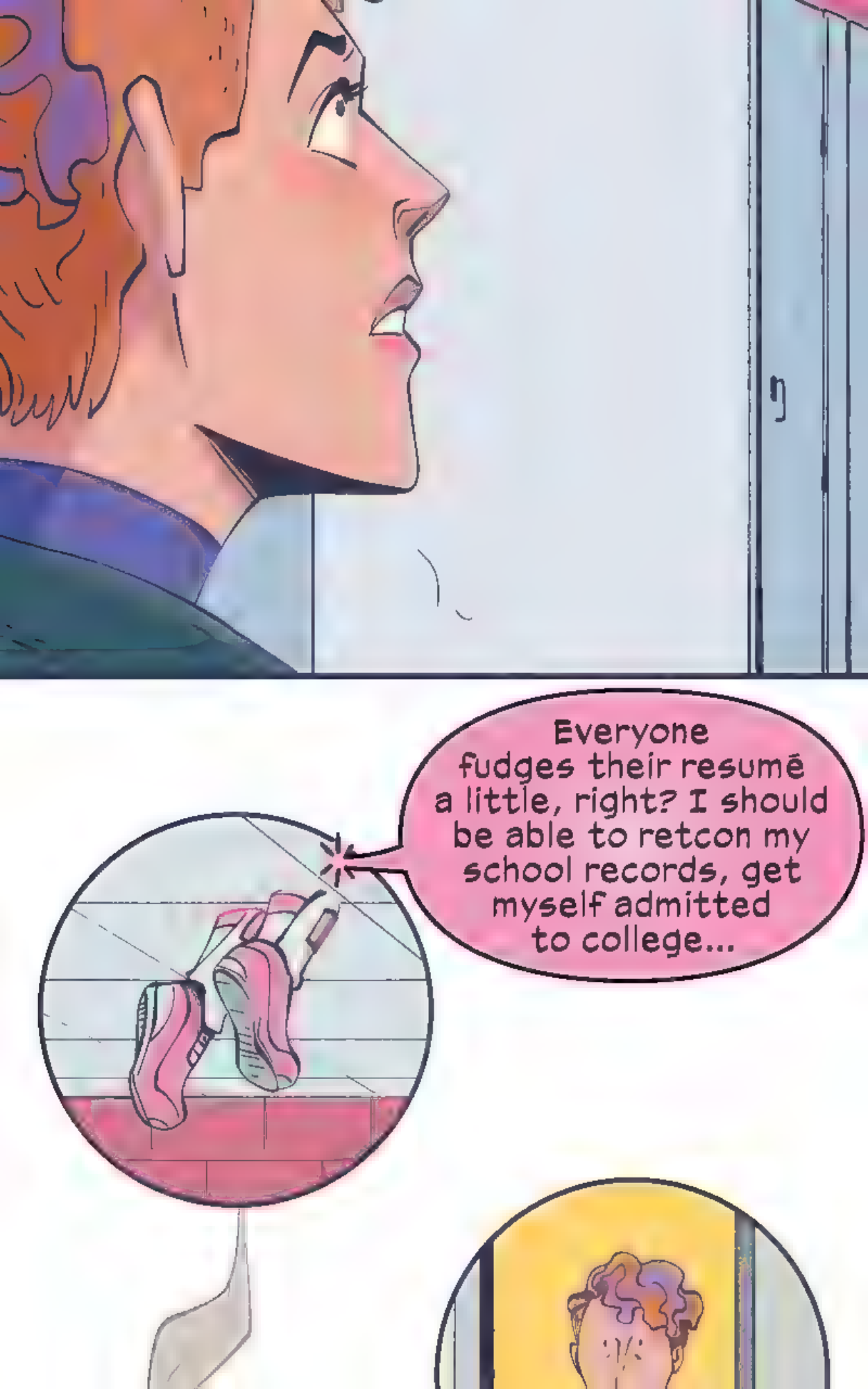
But this isn't *other* people's lives.

This is about my chance to get well-adjusted and have the romance with Julie I deserve!

Don't judge me, okay?
But I think we can agree that keeping myself in the comics and relevant is important.


Ooh, with this, I could even get a spot in one of those Pride Month stories!
I'd look really good in some sort of rainbow-colored variant of my costume!


So--back to the internet to do some multiversal hacking!


Everyone fudges their resumē a little, right? I should be able to retcon my school records, get myself admitted to college...

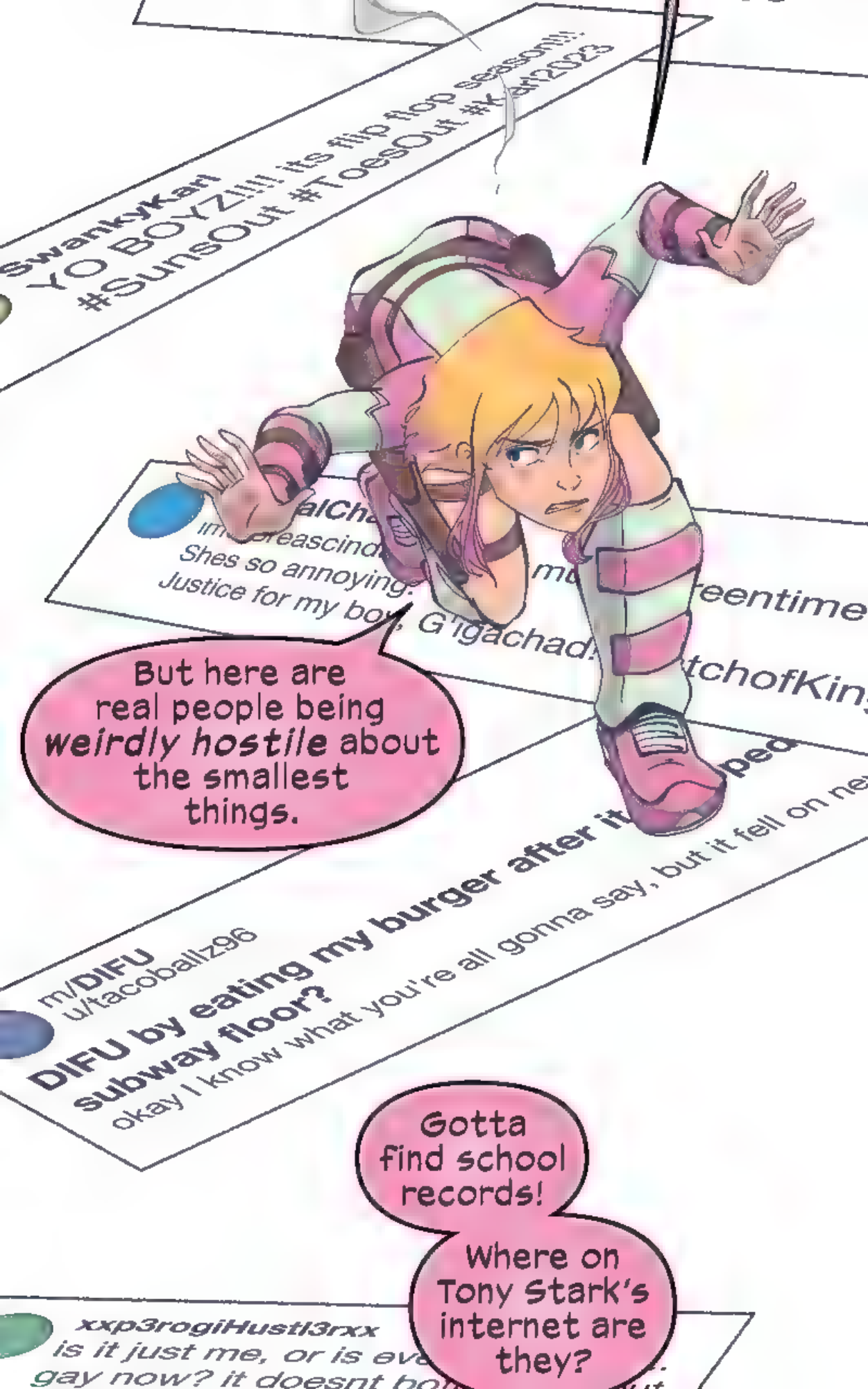
Oh god, here come the messages and threads again!

You know, people in the real world say it's unrealistic that when heroes meet other heroes in comics, they always end up fighting.

free stuff at my local convenience

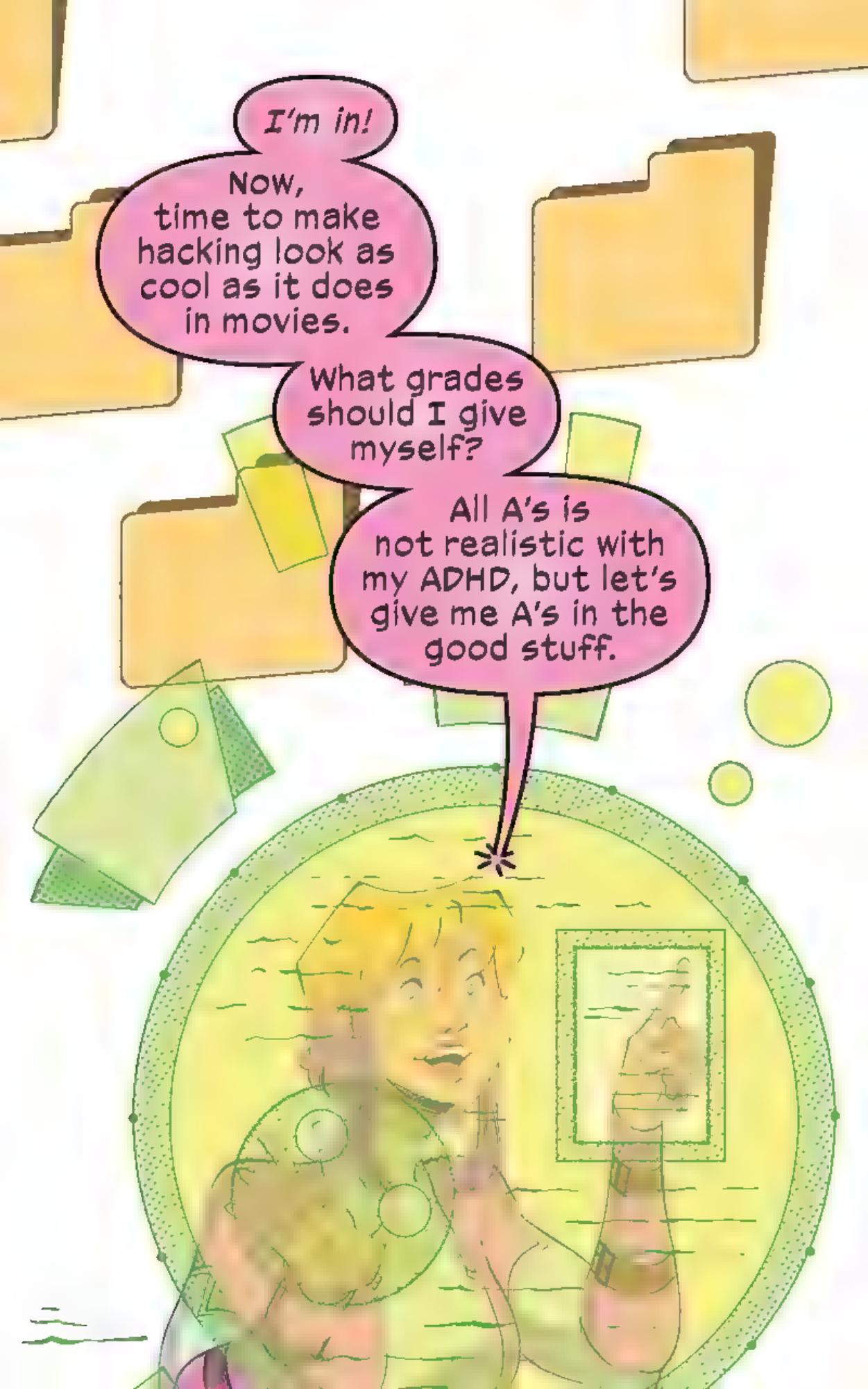
sk8_Bby99
UGH. My Grandma orde ed pineapple on the pizz a >

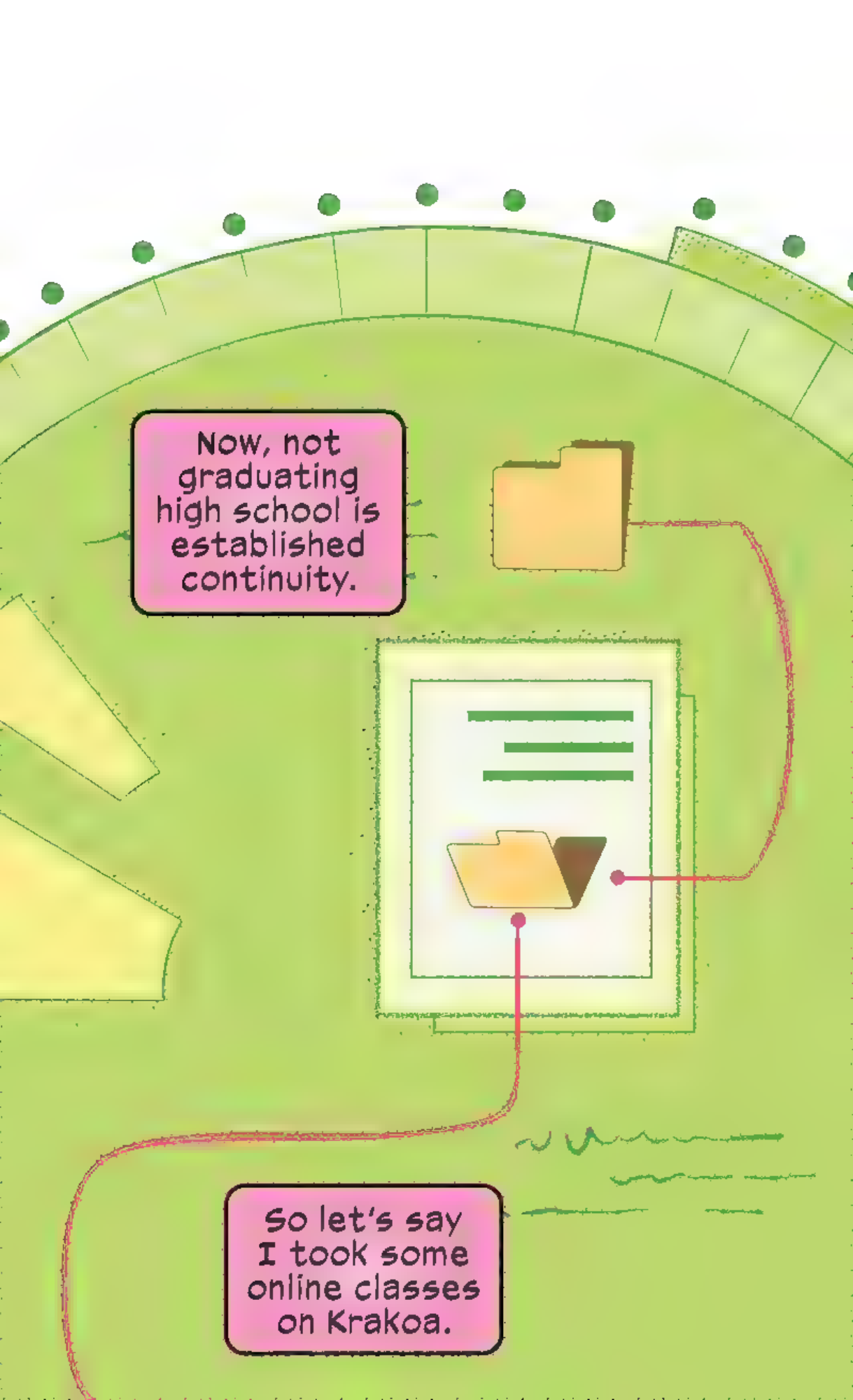
Thicc&Ju cy
bro stop cting so Maide less

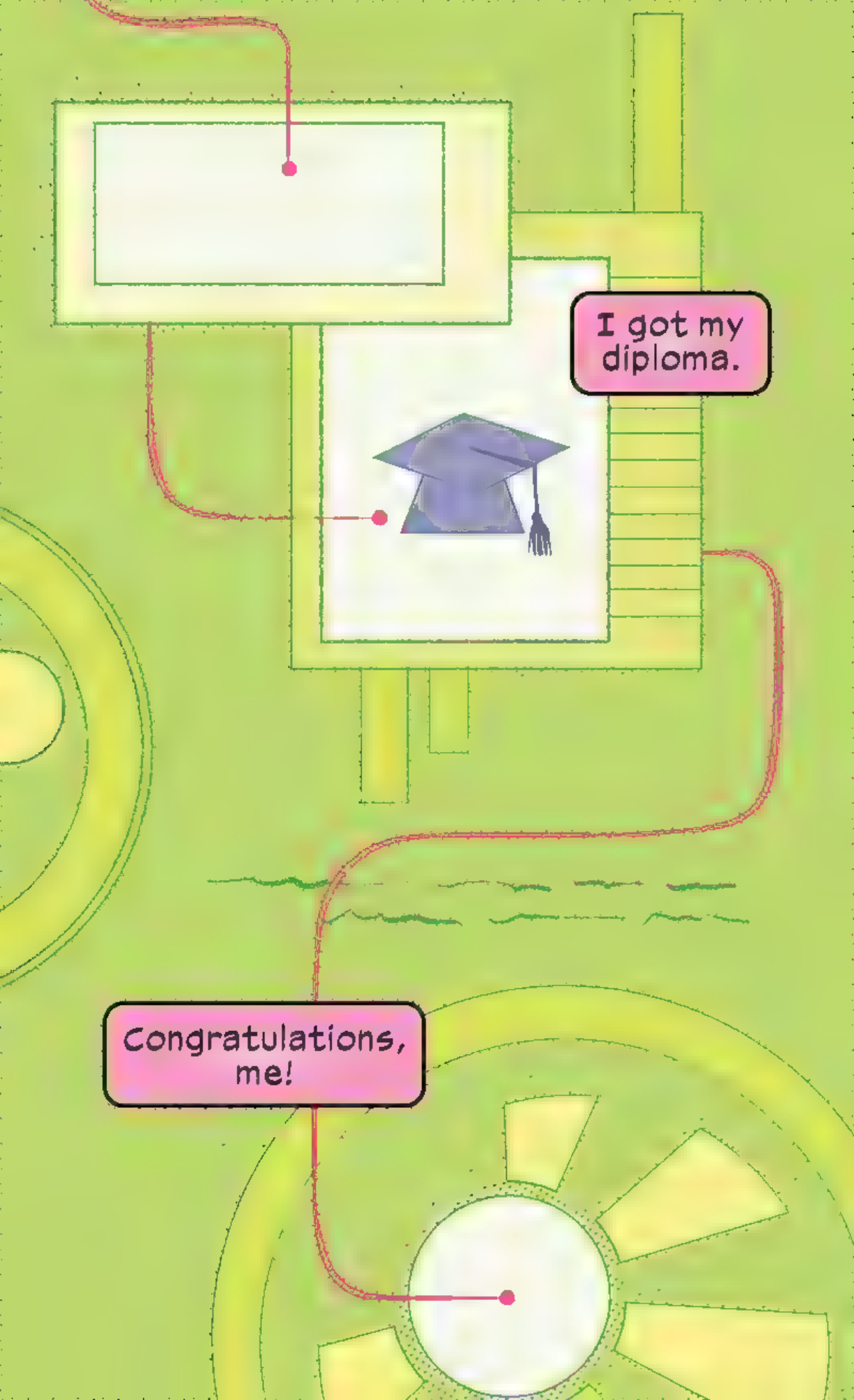

Swankykari
YO BOYZ!!!!! its flip flop season!!
#SunsOut #ToesOut #kari2023
But here are real people being *weirdly hostile* about the smallest things.
m/DIFU
u/tacoballz96
DIFU by eating my burger after it
subway floor?
okay I know what you're all gonna say, but it fell on
Gotta find school records!
Where on Tony Stark's internet are they?
xxp3rogiHustl3rxx
is it just me, or is

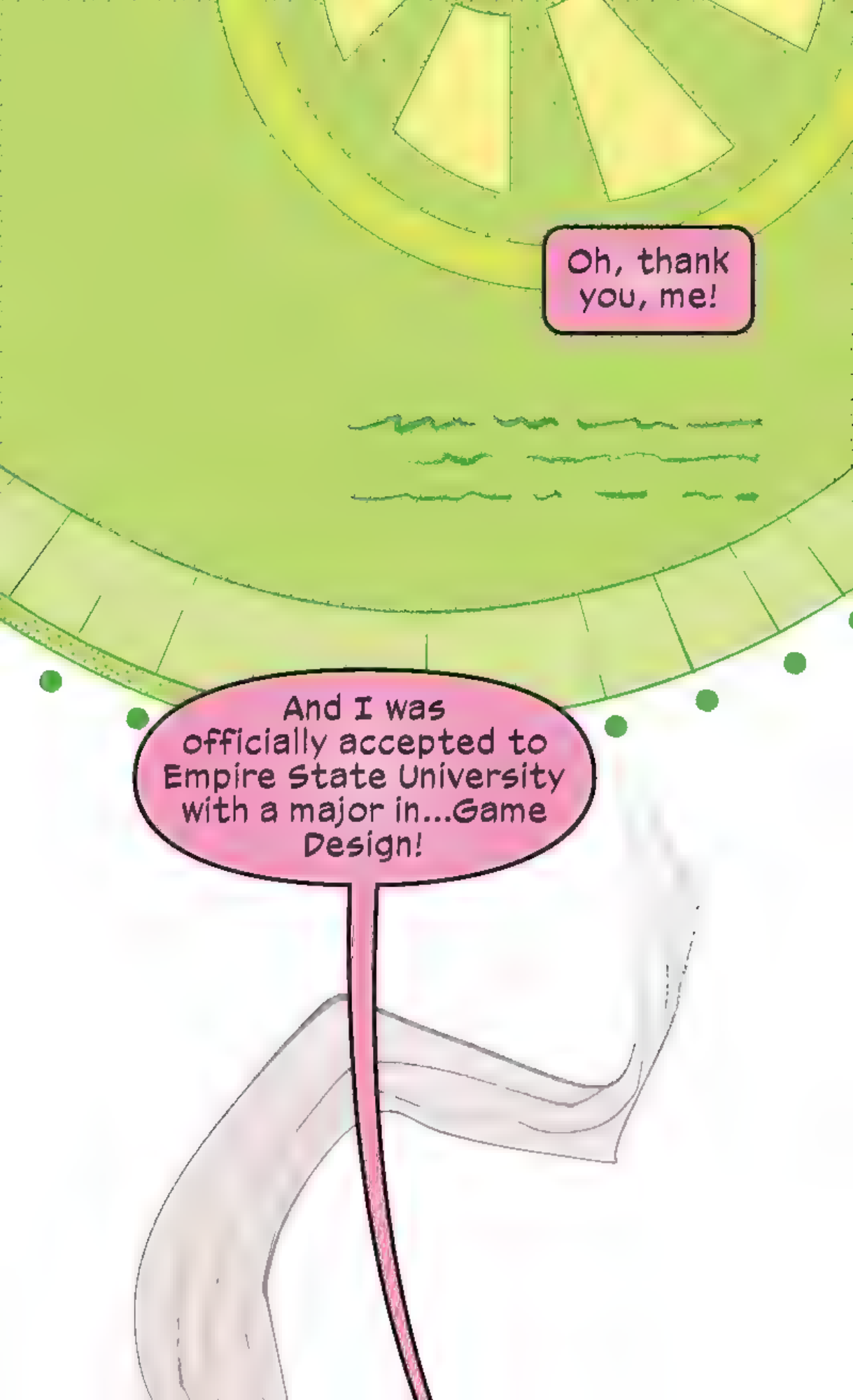
it really breaks my immers
ow do
ore?
Ah, there! Isn't this fun?

They spelled Gwendolyn three different ways in here.
Gwendolyn Poole


I'm in!
Now, time to make hacking look as cool as it does in movies.
What grades should I give myself?
All A's is not realistic with my ADHD, but let's give me A's in the good stuff.


Now, not graduating high school is established continuity.
So let's say I took some online classes on Krakoa.

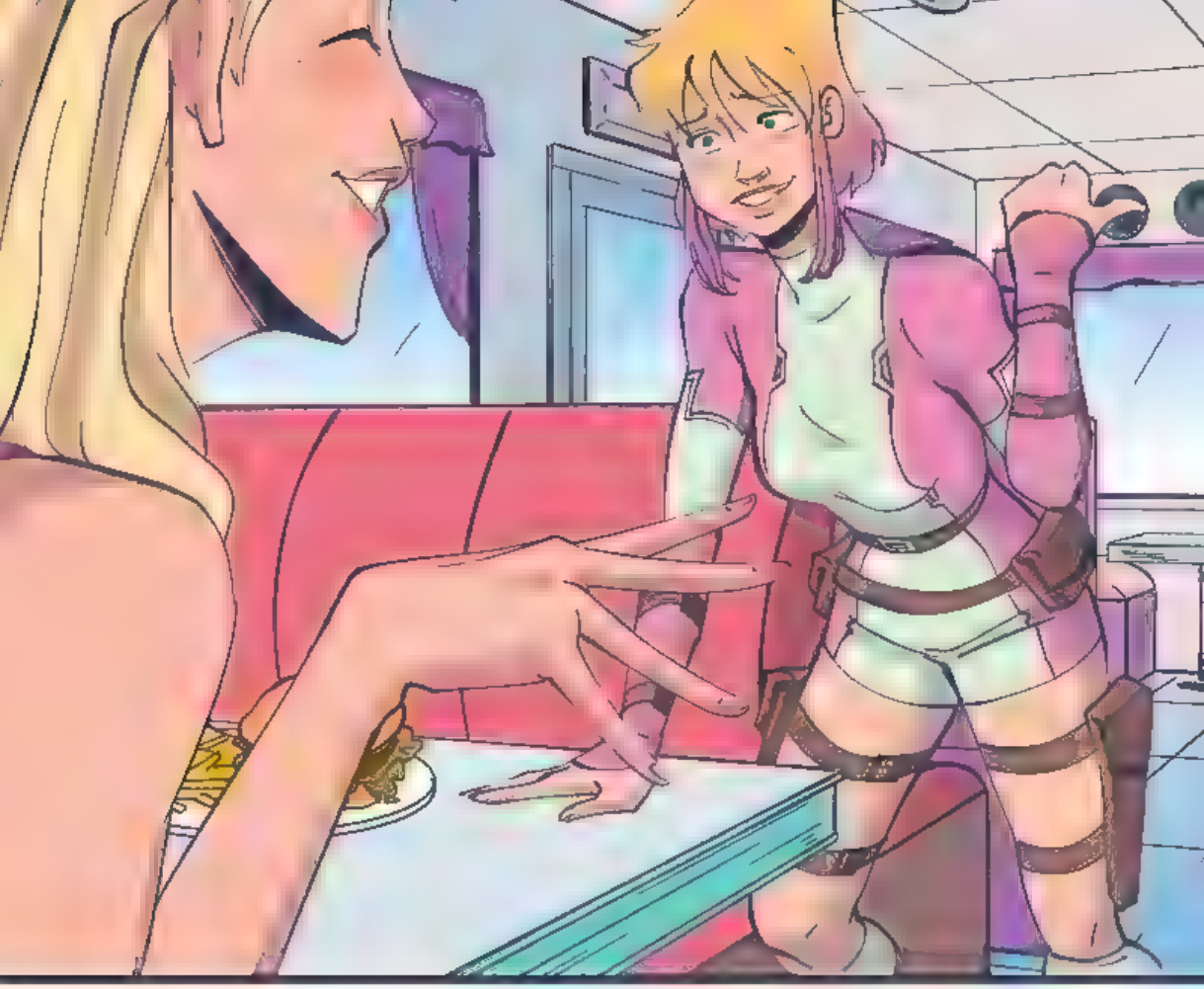

I got my diploma.
Congratulations, me!


Oh, thank you, me!
And I was officially accepted to Empire State University with a major in...Game Design!

AND DONE!
Wee!

You should always wash your hands before leaving the bathroom.
And twice as hard when you've been in the actual internet. It's gross in there.

Thanks for waiting.
It's like the wild west in there.
Oh, no problem. I don't have class for a few more hours anyway.

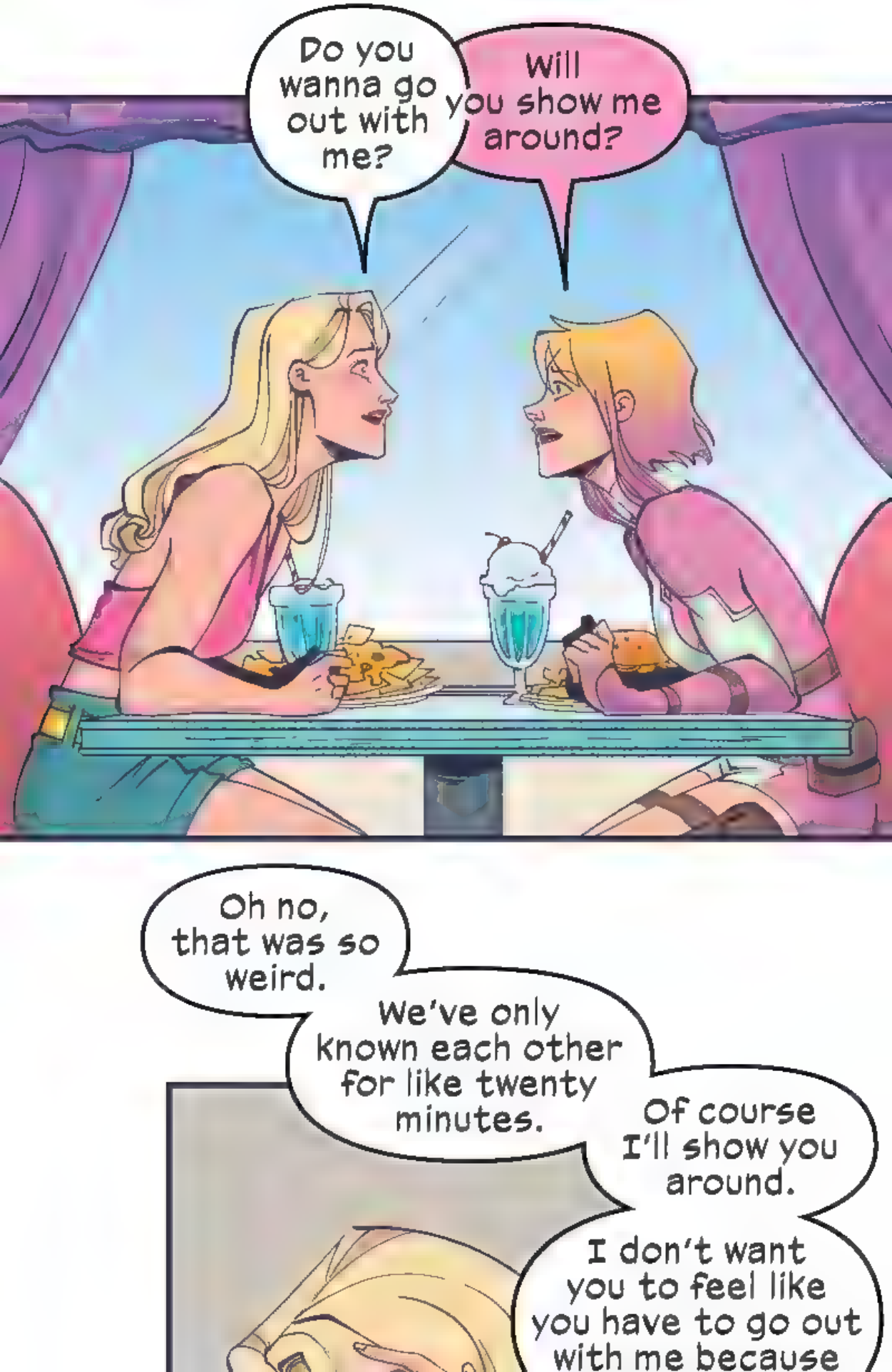


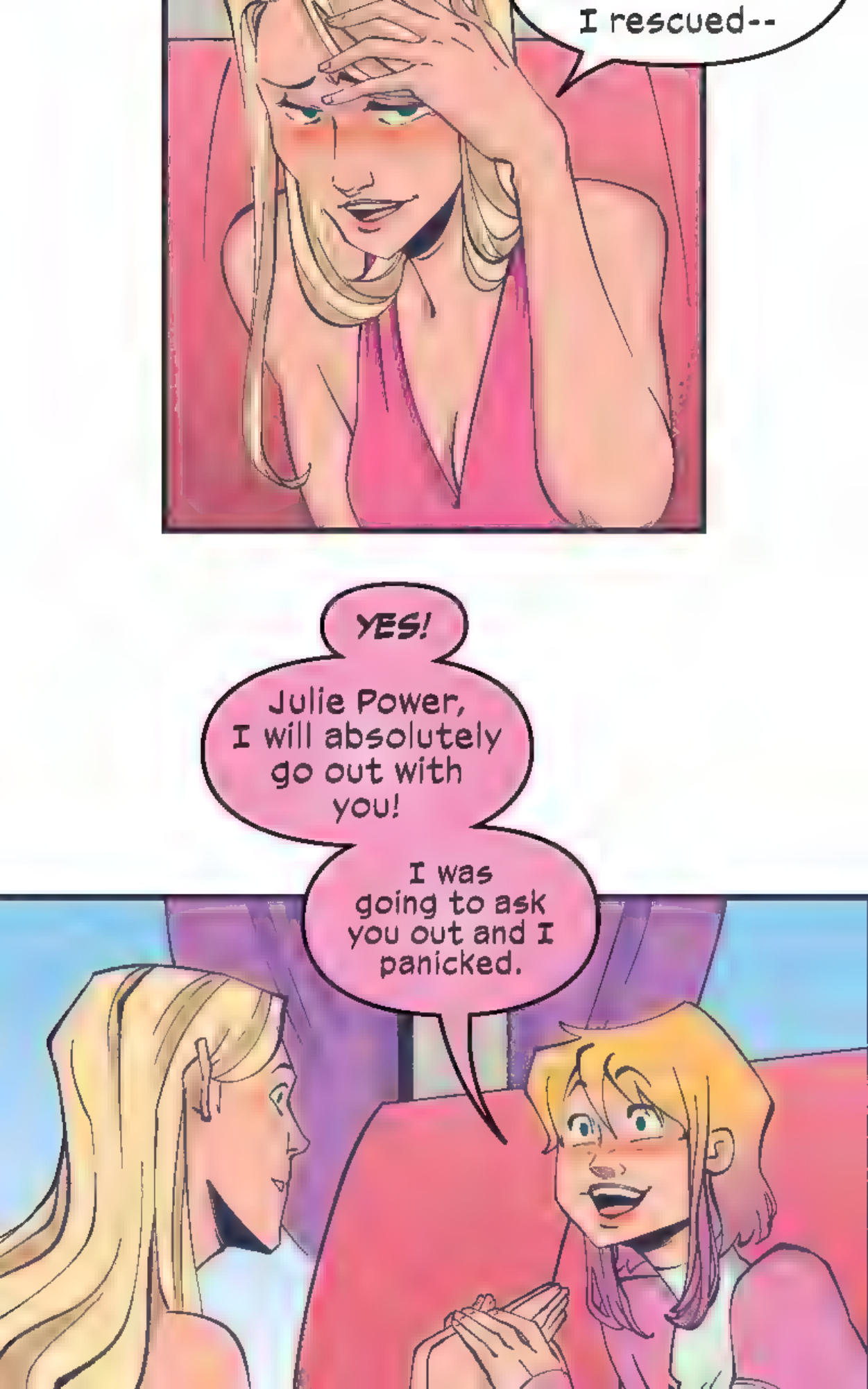
Hey, about that, I just started at Empire State.

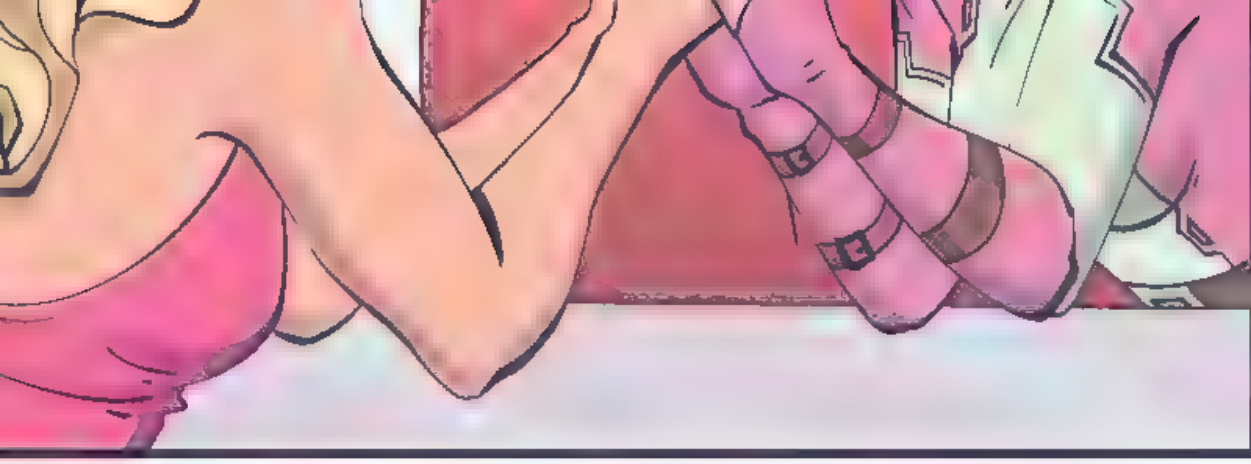
I don't actually know anybody here.

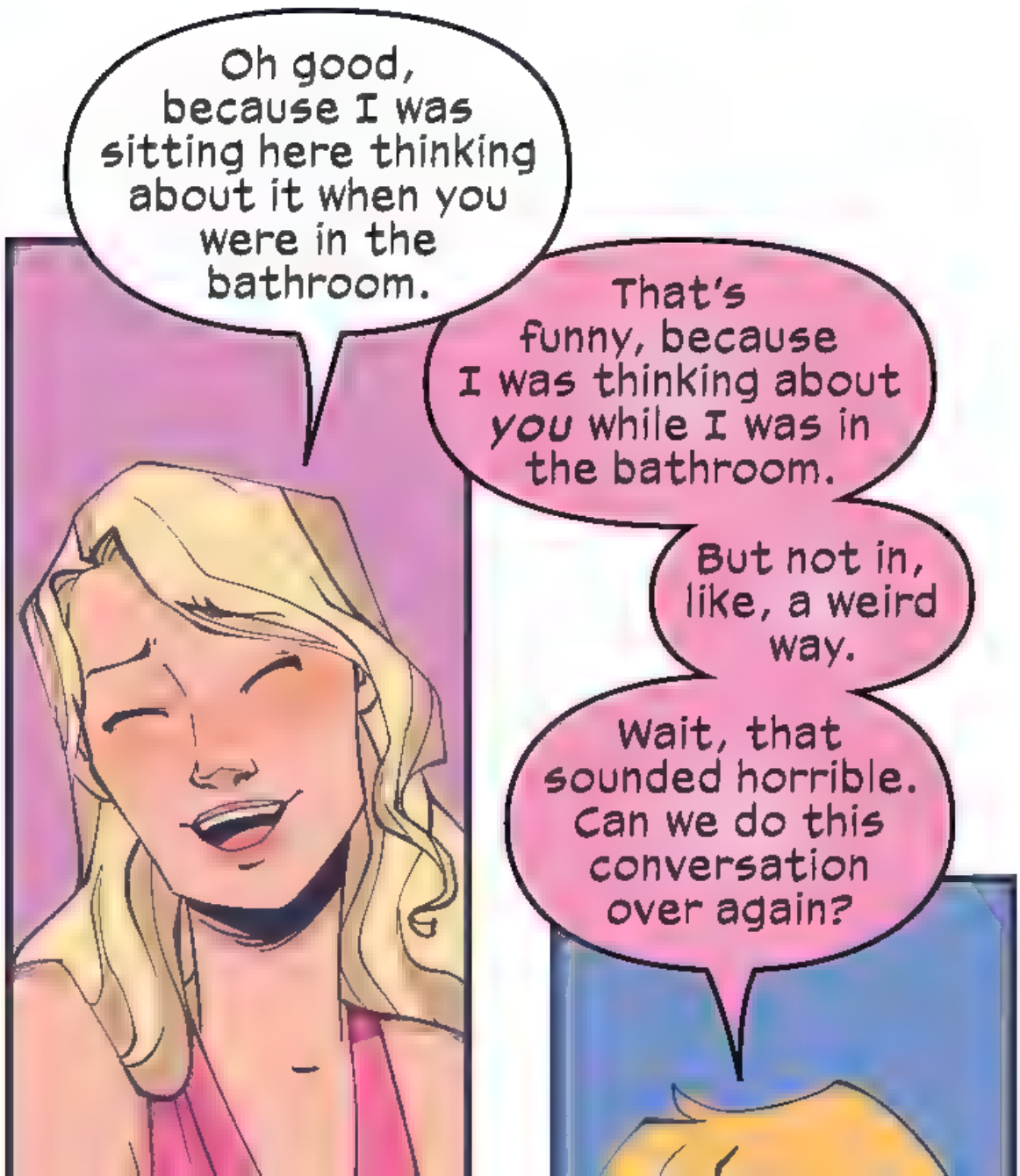
I was wondering if...

...just maybe--


Do you wanna go out with me?
Will you show me around?
Oh no, that was so weird.
We've only known each other for like twenty minutes.
Of course I'll show you around.
I don't want you to feel like you have to go out with me because


I rescued--
YES!
Julie Power, I will absolutely go out with you!
I was going to ask you out and I panicked.




Oh good, because I was sitting here thinking about it when you were in the bathroom.
That's funny, because I was thinking about *you* while I was in the bathroom.
But not in, like, a weird way.
Wait, that sounded horrible. Can we do this conversation over again?

This feels good. It's weird and it's nervous and it's good.

I think, this time, things could actually work out.

Editors, if you agree, hit me with a hopeful "Next" tag!
DINER
DINER
24 HOUR
NEXT: THIS TIME WILL DEFINITELY BE DIFFERENT!

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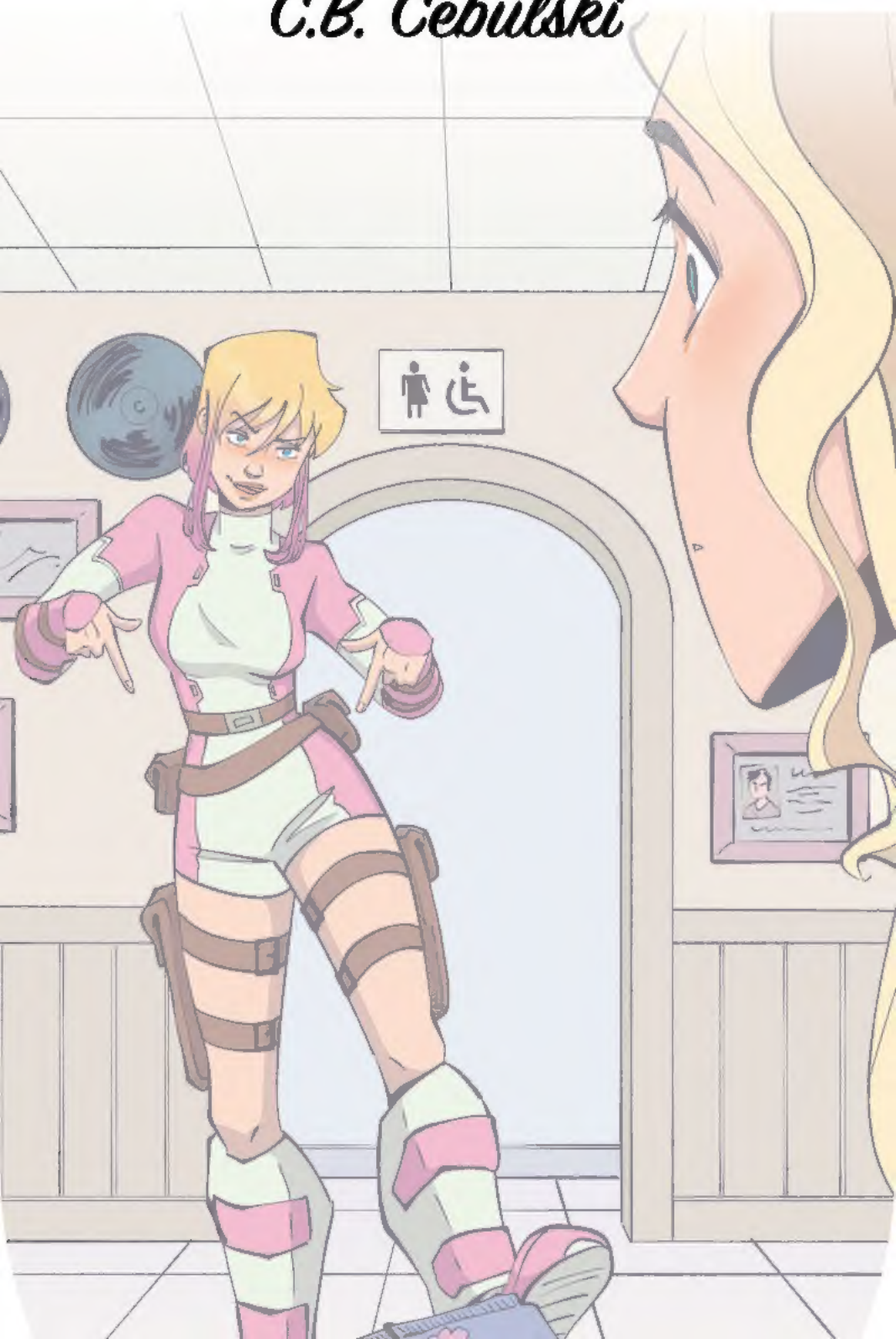

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